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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,223	10/30/2003	Mark A. Satern	6510-A-01	9785
33136	7590	08/23/2004	EXAMINER	
WILLIAM C. CAHILL 155 PARK ONE 2141 E. HIGHLAND AVENUE PHOENIX, AZ 85016			DINH, PHUONG K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2839	

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/697,223	SATERN, MARK A.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Phuong KT Dinh	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2003.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-5,8,11 and 14 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 6,7,9,10,12,13,15 and 16 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04/04.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-10 are objected to because of the following informalities:
2. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 8, "a plurality of conductor ports" should be changed to -- a plurality of conductor ports --.
3. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stumpff (U. S. Patent 4,820,197).
6. Regarding claims 1 and 3, Stumpff discloses an electrical junction box 14, a multi-pole electrical connector comprising: an insulating housing 26 having a plurality of conductor ports therein, a plurality of busses 44, 46, 42, electrically insulated from each other and mounted within the housing, each of the busses having a plurality of conductor wells 64 therein each for receiving an electrical conductor, each of the conductor well positioned in registration with a different one of the conductor ports.

7. Regarding claims 2 and 4, Stumpff discloses the conductor well includes a releasable locking means for preventing unintended removal of a conductor inserted in the conductor well.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 5, 8, 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stumpff in view of Shore et al. (U. S. Patent 3,470,421).

10. Regarding claims 5, 8, 11 and 14, Stumpff discloses the claimed invention except for each of wells having a flared portion at the edge, the flared portion of each well forming, a funnel shaped opening into the respective well and each of the flared position extending from an edge of the walls into corresponding well and terminating within the well. Shore discloses busses each of U-shape having a flared portion 30 at the edge. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Stumpff to provide each buss formed as a U-shaped member the each of wells having a flared portion at the edge as taught by Shore so as to provide sliding pressure electrical contact with the male connector to simplify manufacture. Term "well" does not define over reveiver formed by each opposed spring pair of Shore bus 30.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 6-7, 9-10, 12-13 and 15-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
12. None of the reference discloses each of the flared portions includes a pair of opposed locking tabs extending therefrom into the well for engaging an electrical conductor extending into the well, each of the tabs including an arcuate locking tip.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong KT Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-2090. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 -5, 5 days a week.

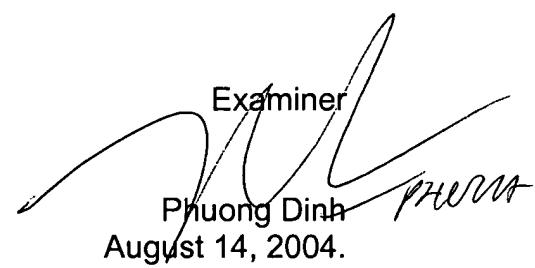
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Field can be reached on 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Examiner
Phuong Dinh
August 14, 2004.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phuong Dinh", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Phuong" and the last name "Dinh" both having distinct, flowing strokes.